

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-20 EB-11 AID-20 AGR-20 IGA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9696

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0586

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR MRN 0586 VICE 00000)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, GV

SUBJECT: PL-480; REQUEST FOR AMBASSADOR'S RETURN ON CONS-
ULTATIONS

FOR ASST. SECRETARY EASUM FROM AMBASSADOR

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FILY CISSOKO SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE
URGENTLY MORNING APRIL 20 AND INFORMED ME THAT PRESIDENT SEKOU
TOURE PERSONALLY REQUESTED THAT I RETURN TO WASHINGTON SOONEST ON
IMPORTANT MISSION ON HIS BEHALF. CISSOKO SAID PURPOSE WAS TO EXPLAIN
MORE FULLY CRITICAL FOOD SITUATION IN GUINEA AND URGE INCREASED
U.S. ASSISTANCE. SAID PRESIDENT TOURE EMPHASIZED THIS WAS FIRST
TIME EVER THAT HE WAS TAKING SUCH UNUSUAL STEP AS TO REQUEST AN
AMBASSADOR TO RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY TO PRESENT A CASE ON BEHALF
OF GUINEA. HE DOING SO NOW ONLY BECAUSE CIRCUMSTANCES SO SERIOUS.
HE SAID WHEN I AM READY TO LEAVE PRESIDENT WOULD RECEIVE ME TO PRESENT

FULL CASE.

2. I TOLD FONMIN THAT AS I AM SURE HE UNDERSTOOD, I COULD LEAVE
POST ONLY ON ORDERS FROM WASHINGTON. I PROMISED TO INFORM DEPARTMENT
OF PRESIDENT'S REQUEST AND TO LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS REPLY RECEIVED.

3. CISSOKO REQUESTED THAT I HANDLE MATTER WITH UTMOST URGENCY.

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4. REQUEST BY PRESIDENT BEING MADE WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT

PROGRAM FOR 3,700 TONS FLOUR AND 1,900 TONS VEGETABLE OIL HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED WITH NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN FIRST OF NEXT WEEK.

5. FACT THAT PRESIDENT TOURE MAKING SUCH AN UNUSUAL AND FOR HIM ALMOST HUMILITATING REQUEST IS CLEAREST POSSIBLE INDICATION OF HOW DESPERATE SITUATION IS. AT SAME TIME IT IS REMARKABLE SHOW OF FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN U.S., AN ATTITUDE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE.

6. FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO REFUSE AUTHORIZATION FOR ME TO RETURN WOULD BE TO SUGGEST THAT WE DO NOT EVEN WISH TO CONSIDER OR REVIEW NEW ELEMENTS IN AN URGENT APPEAL FOR HELP. THEREFORE REGARDLESS OF OUTLOOK FOR PROGRAM INCREASE (WHICH I HOPE WILL BE FAVORABLE) REQUEST THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO RETURN URGENTLY ON THE MISSION FOR PRESIDENT TOURE AS HE REQUESTS.
TODMAN

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